

The best new Bob Dylan album I've heard in a while is the forthcoming album by **Bob Geldof**, *The Happy Club* (Polydor). Over Celtic sounding accordion that occasionally goes Cajun, the Dylan influence is everywhere. Slow down "Hole to Fill," and you have "Knockin' On Heaven's Door," and "Attitude Chicken" is awfully close to "Motorpsycho Nitemare" or "115th Dream." When he's not being Dylan, Geldof tries for Van Morrison. His Van-styled rap on "House At the Top of the Hill" doesn't really cut it, but he does sort of approximate an *Astral Weeks* feel on "The Soft Soil." He also does a kind-of Leonard Cohen "A Sex Thing" and goes after the Kinks on "The Happy Club." The thing is, is that's it's all pretty good and most of the songs have a spirit that'll keep you listening. Geldof does do Geldof (or is it Billy Bragg) on "The Song of the Emerging Nationalist," and "The Roads of Germany" (though it could be Bragg again or Woody Guthrie) though the vocal is pure Dylan. What saves Geldof who's been known to be sanctimonious in the past is that he doesn't take himself seriously. There's a smile and a wink behind each song.

Bob Geldof and the Happy Clubsters: Tues., Apr. 27 at 8 p.m. at TLA, 334 South St., \$15.50, 922-1011.

--Peter Brown